

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) In a financial transaction system capable of using at least one limited use credit card number, which is associated with a master account number of a customer and deactivated upon a use-triggered condition which occurs subsequent to assignment of the at least one limited use credit card number, a method of processing a transaction initiated by a customer presenting the limited use credit card number to a merchant, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving in a central processing system said limited use credit card number electronically routed from the merchant; ~~and~~

determining electronically whether said limited use credit card number has been deactivated because at least one use-triggered condition has been satisfied;

electronically transmitting a signal to a facility which issued the limited use credit card number, the signal including original transaction details but with the limited use credit card number remapped to be a master account number if the limited use credit card number has not been deactivated;

electronically determining whether authorization can be obtained against the master account number;

electronically remapping the results of the authorization determining step to the limited use credit card number for transmission to the merchant; and
electronically transmitting a signal to the merchant with the results of the authorization determining step for the limited use credit card number.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the limited credit card number is linked to an organization selected from a group consisting of: a utility, a public network service provider, a telephone company, a bank account, a prepaid account and a credit card issuer.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising:
transmitting a signal to the organization which is linked to the limited use credit card number, the signal including original transaction details if the limited use credit card number has not been deactivated;

performing a credit check to determine whether authorization can be obtained against the limited use credit card number; and

transmitting a signal to the merchant with the results of the authorization determining step for the limited use credit card number.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising:
transmitting a signal to the merchant denying authorization if the limited use credit card number has been deactivated.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 13~~ claim 8, further comprising authorizing the transaction based on the results of the authorization determining step.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 13~~ claim 8, further comprising declining authorization of the transaction based on the results of the authorization determining step.

16. (Currently Amended) In a financial transaction system capable of using at least one limited use credit card number which is deactivated upon a use-triggered condition which occurs subsequent to assignment of the at least one credit card number and which is associated with the master account number of a customer, a method of conducting a settlement transaction comprising the steps of:

electronically receiving a signal transmitted from a merchant according to leading digits of the limited use card number;

electronically remapping the limited use credit card number with the master account number;

electronically transmitting said remapped master account number to an issuer processing facility which issued the master account number;

receiving payment for settling the transaction, if appropriate;

electronically remapping the master account number back to the limited use credit card number; and

electronically transmitting the limited use credit card number and payment information, if appropriate, to the merchant.

17-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) In a financial transaction system capable of using at least one limited use credit card number, which is deactivated upon a use-triggered condition which occurs subsequent to assignment of the at least one limited use credit card number and is associated with a master credit card number, a method of conducting a transaction involving the limited use credit card comprising the steps of:

initiating a transaction by a customer presenting a limited use credit card number to a merchant electronically or in person;

electronically routing said limited use credit card number to a central processing system; and

electronically determining whether said limited use credit card number has been deactivated because at least one use-triggered condition has been satisfied;[::]

electronically transmitting a signal to a master credit card issuing facility which issued the limited use credit card number, the signal including original transaction details but with the limited use credit card number remapped to be the master credit card number if the limited use credit card number has not been deactivated;

electronically determining whether authorization can be obtained against the master credit card number;

electronically remapping the results of the authorization determining step to the limited use credit card number for transmission to the merchant; and

electronically transmitting a signal to the merchant with the results of the authorization determining step for the limited use credit card number.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the master account number is a master credit card account number.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the use-triggered condition is satisfied when a predetermined number of uses of the limited use credit card number is reached.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the predetermined number is one.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein a limited use associated with the limited use credit card number permits multiple transactions, and the use-triggered condition is satisfied when the aggregate value of the transactions exceeds a predetermined sum.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein a limited use associated with the limited use credit card number limits use of the card to a specific class of use.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the master account number is a master credit card account number.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the use-triggered condition is satisfied when a predetermined number of uses of the limited use credit card number is reached.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the predetermined number is one.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein a limited use associated with the limited use credit card number permits multiple transactions, and the use-triggered condition is satisfied when the aggregate value of the transactions exceeds a predetermined sum.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein a limited use associated with the limited use credit card number limits use of the card to a specific class of use.